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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/899,604	LAFHEY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mylinh T Tran	2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/04/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6-11, 13-18 and 20-30 (renumbered claims 1-27).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. J.B. Kraft on 09/17/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 5, 12, 19 are canceled.

Claim 1:

In a computer controlled user interactive display system, a display interface implementation for directing a user's attention to specific selectable items on display screen with crowded selectable items comprising;

user controlled means for moving an on-screen pointer to approach said selectable items; and

[means for highlighting all items in any set of a plurality of said items wherein each item in the set is within a predetermined distance of said approaching pointer.]

means for automatically sequentially highlighting each item in said selectable items when said approaching pointer is within a predetermined distance from said

items.

Claim 8:

A method for directing a user's attention to specific selectable items on a display screen with crowded selectable items in computer controlled user interactive display systems comprising:

moving an on-screen pointer to approach said selectable items; and

[highlighting all items in any set of a plurality of said items wherein
each item in the set is within a predetermined distance of said approaching pointer.]

automatically sequentially highlighting each item in said selectable
items when said approaching pointer is within a predetermined distance from
said

items.

Claim 15:

A computer program having program code included on a computer readable medium for directing a user's attention to specific selectable items on a display screen with crowded selectable items in computer controlled user interactive display systems comprising:

user controlled means for moving an on-screen pointer to approach
said selectable items; and

[means for highlighting all items in any set of a plurality of said items wherein each item in the set is within a predetermined distance of said approaching pointer.]

means for automatically sequentially highlighting each item in said selectable items when said approaching pointer is within a predetermined distance from said items.

Claim 22:

In a computer controlled user interactive display system, a display interface implementation for directing a user's attention to specific selectable items on a display screen with crowded selectable items comprising:

user controlled means for moving an on-screen pointer to approach a cluster of said selectable items; and

means for automatically sequentially highlighting each item in said cluster when said approaching pointer is within a predetermined distance from said cluster.

Claim 23:

In a computer controlled user interactive display system, a display interface implementation for directing a user's attention to specific selectable items on a display screen with crowded selectable items comprising:

user controlled means for moving an on-screen pointer to approach a cluster of said selectable items;

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means for determining whether the items in said cluster have sufficient separation for said pointer to select separate items in said cluster; and .

means responsive to said determining means for automatically sequentially highlighting each item in said cluster when there is insufficient separation.

Claim 25:

A method for directing a user's attention to specific selectable items on a display screen with crowded selectable items in computer controlled user interactive display systems comprising:

moving an on-screen pointer to approach a cluster of said selectable items; and automatically sequentially highlighting each item in said cluster when said approaching pointer is within a predetermined distance from said cluster.

Claim 26:

A method for directing a user's attention to specific selectable items on a display screen with crowded selectable items in computer controlled user interactive display systems comprising:

moving an on-screen pointer to approach a cluster of said selectable items;

determining whether the items in said cluster have sufficient separation for said pointer to select separate items in said cluster; and

automatically sequentially highlighting each item in said cluster responsive to a determination that there is insufficient separation.

Claim 28:

A computer program having program code included on a computer readable medium for directing a user's attention to specific selectable items on a display screen with crowded selectable items in computer controlled user interactive display systems comprising:

user controlled means for moving an on screen pointer to approach a cluster of said selectable items; and

means for automatically sequentially highlighting each item in said cluster when said approaching pointer is within a determined distance from said cluster.

Claim 29:

A computer program having program code included on a computer readable medium for directing a user's attention to specific selectable items on a display screen with crowded selectable items in computer controlled user interactive display systems comprising:

user controlled means for moving an on-screen pointer to approach a cluster of said selectable items;

means for determining whether the items in said cluster have sufficient separation for said pointer to select separate items in said cluster; and

means responsive to said determining means for automatically sequentially highlighting each item in said cluster when there is insufficient separation.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The Examiner has carefully considered the independent claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 29. The "method" and "system" for a display interface implementation for directing a user's attention to specific selectable items on a display screen with crowded selectable items was not taught or suggested by the prior arts. The system and method for a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus for user controlled means for moving an on-screen pointer to approach a cluster of said selectable items are well known in the art. However, they do not teach or suggest means for automatically sequentially highlighting each item in said cluster when said approaching pointer is within a predetermined distance from said cluster.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. If applicant desires fax a response,

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(703) 746-7238), may be used for formal After Final communications, (703) 746-7239 for Official communications, or (703) 746-7240 for Non-Official or draft communications. NOTE, A Request for Continuation (Rule 60 or 62) cannot be faxed.

Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for information facsimile communications. For after final responses, please label "AFTER FINAL" or "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE" on the document.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mylinh Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-1304. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8.00AM to 4.30PM

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner 's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on (703) 308-5186,

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set

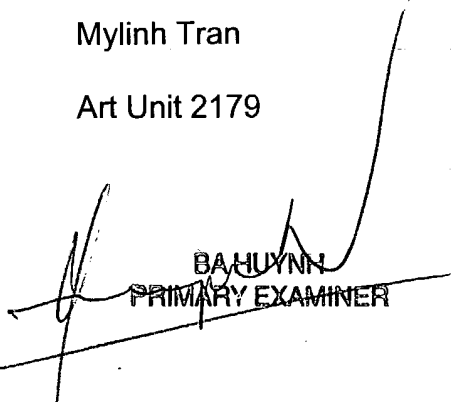
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forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

Mylinh Tran

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BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER